

Amendment to the specification:

Amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 12, as follows:

Each of a plurality of the processor nodes has information determining relative locations of the processor nodes on the multi-drop bus network, and is associated with a local error indicator. The plurality of processor nodes each independently tests access to other processor nodes on the multi-drop bus network. Upon a testing processor node detecting a failure to access at least one of the other [[the]] processor nodes, the failure detecting processor node determines, from the provided information of relative locations, the processor node having failed access which is closest to the failure detecting processor node. In one alternative, the testing processor nodes test access to all the other processor nodes. In another alternative, each of the testing processor nodes tests access to its adjacent node or nodes. At a minimum, at least one of the processor nodes must test access to a plurality of other nodes. The failure detecting processor node stores and subsequently posts, at its associated local error indicator, an identifier of the closest processor node having failed access. A user may inspect the local error indicators and thereby isolate the detected failure, even though the failure may have been intermittent.